

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question occurs on the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Susan Paradise Baxter, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Paradise Baxter nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question occurs on the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Nancy E. Brasel, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Brasel nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JOHN MCCAIN

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I have been watching as Senators have come to the floor over the past couple days to pay tribute to John McCain, to share their stories, and to reflect on a full life of service to his country.

I have known John McCain for 25 years, not as long as some of my col-

leagues, but long enough to take the measure of the man and to appreciate his dedication to his family, to the U.S. military, to the Senate, to Arizona, and to the Nation.

He was a statesman and a global citizen, and our loss is all the deeper because we are living in a time where people like John are in short supply.

Like many others, I had my disagreements with John and found myself on the wrong end of his temper, but more often, I saw him as a man of ideals and a man who stood up for what he believed in.

For me, nowhere was this as strong and clear as on the issue of torture, and I wanted to talk a little bit about that today and really to share my appreciation for him.

It was June 2013, and John McCain and I were visiting Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to see the detention facilities that had been hastily put together after the invasion of Afghanistan in September 2001. It was a hot, sunny, sultry day. We had toured the base, received briefings and boxed lunches from the commander, and looked at three separate detention facilities.

It was clear that the officers and enlisted personnel were working under difficult conditions, dealing with enemy combatants with little contact with the outside world and no sense of what would happen to them.

John McCain, as always, praised the troops for their service and took whatever time was required to take pictures with them, but he, like me and like Presidents Bush and Obama, had called for Guantanamo to shut down.

I remember we were flying home on the last flight of the day—after two boat rides, after seeing the facility where forced intubations were done to feed hunger-striking detainees, and after hearing about the daily infractions committed by the detainees against the guards.

The conversation turned to the conditions of detention we had just seen and the detainees being held at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

John opened up about his years in the Navy and his time as a prisoner of war.

I learned for the first time the depth and breadth of his suffering, but also his perseverance and his intensity.

John told us about his years as a captive in Hanoi and how one of the things he and his fellow prisoners did was work out a tap code, similar to Morse code.

They tapped on walls, day after day, year after year. They tapped out messages. I read earlier this week of an account of tapping out poems that other POWs had learned in school.

So there we were on that airplane, flying to Washington from Guantanamo Bay, and John starts tapping, speaking using his code. After all those years, he could still use the tap code like second nature.

John was unusual, but in a very good way.

As the son and grandson of admirals, John was born and bred in military tradition and the ideals of public service. He worried that he wouldn't live up to his family's traditions or expectations. John often joked about how bad of a student he was at Annapolis, but even though his father was an admiral and he could have used the help, John never sought nor accepted special treatment.

John was brutalized. Although both arms and a leg were broken in a plane crash in Vietnam, he received no medical treatment. His torturers regularly beat him, rebreaking one arm and cracking his ribs. He was held in solitary confinement for years, in unimaginable conditions.

When the North Vietnamese offered to release John early, he refused. Other servicemen had been in custody longer, and he wasn't going to allow his father and his grandfather's position to bring him special favor.

But John was able to emerge from that hell with a sense of humor and such an amazing strength of purpose. How he did so is simply remarkable.

I knew John for decades, but it was just in the last 5 years that I worked particularly close with him on the issue of torture.

He was already recognized in the Senate as the leader on torture issues, having recently authored the Detainee Treatment Act and important amendments to the Military Commissions Act to ban cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment during the Bush administration.

Starting in 2009, the Intelligence Committee began work on what ended up being a 7,000-page report on the CIA detention and interrogation program after 9/11.

By the time we were finishing the report, John was chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

As an ex officio member of the Intelligence Committee, he was aware of what our investigation had found, and he knew how controversial our findings would be. Nonetheless, he approached me and said he wanted to help. To say I was grateful would be an understatement.

John had an innate and immutable sense of what was right. More to the point, he knew from personal experience what torture can do, and he knew that torture doesn't work to elicit accurate information. It is wrong, and we shouldn't practice it.

I remember the day we released the report. I spoke on the floor about the report and everything we found, but no one could match the eloquence of John, who spoke immediately after me. I was so grateful to have a friend and a partner, literally standing across the aisle on that day.

Here is what he said about the use of torture: "I know from personal experience that the abuse of prisoners will produce more bad than good intelligence."

"I know victims of torture will offer intentionally misleading information if they think their captors will believe it."